

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 20-38 have herein been canceled and replaced with new claims 39-68. The new claims are fully supported by the specification. Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the claimed subject matter. No new matter has been added to the prosecution of this application. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicant asserts that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

1. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 20-24, 26-31, and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dedrick*, U.S. Patent No. 5,696,965, in view of *Newsbytes* (PTO-892 Items: U and V). Applicant respectfully opposes this rejection in light of the claim amendments above. Applicant asserts that not every element of every claim, as amended, is taught by the references.

Applicant has added new claims 39-68 to recite a method for a plurality of e-businesses to electronically communicate with a plurality of government agencies providing a business-to-government interface through a single communication portal, wherein the business-to-government interface allows the plurality of businesses to electronically submit a plurality of government filings and the plurality of government filings are routed to the plurality of government agencies." Neither *Dedrick* nor *Newsbytes* disclose such a system.

Dedrick is directed only to an information distribution system which serves as a portal to access information databases. Specifically, *Dedrick* discloses the use of agents to retrieve electronic data which matches search criteria. Nowhere does *Dedrick* disclose enabling a business user to connect to a plurality of unique government agencies that represent a plurality of government departments each having different information requirements as claimed. For example, *Dedrick* does not disclose enabling a user to interact and exchange information with the Department of Labor that includes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA may have different information requirements that are not required by the Department of the Treasury or the IRS. *Dedrick* does not disclose or suggest a system that enables a user to interact and exchange information with many government departments. Therefore, *Dedrick* does not disclose or

suggest receiving a request from a business user for connection to a government interface utilizing a network, wherein the government interface is connected to a plurality of government agencies, wherein the government agencies represent a plurality of government departments each having different information requirements.

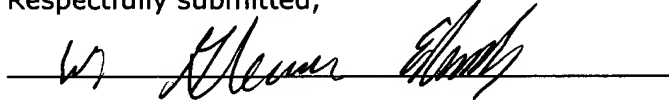
Furthermore, the combination of *Newsbytes* with *Dedrick* does not remedy the deficiencies of *Dedrick*. *Newsbytes* discloses generally electronic communications with a government agency. However, this is a very limited situation of providing information to a government authority, and is quite different than what is claimed by Applicants. Applicants disclose and claim providing a business-to-government interface in an electronic commerce architecture such that a plurality of businesses are interfaced with a plurality of government agencies through a *single communication port*, wherein the business-to-government interface allows the plurality of businesses to electronically submit a plurality of government filings and the plurality of government filings are routed to the plurality of government agencies. This means that the filings/data that is transmitted includes *unrelated data* is routed to *unrelated agencies*. For example, Applicants' interface, as claimed, handles electronic submissions that include data and formats intended for OSHA, IRS, and the Department of the Interior at the same time, via a single portal. *Newsbytes* fails to teach such functionality. *Newsbytes*, to the contrary, discloses and suggests only retrieving and filing e-forms from/with a government agency. That is not the same as Applicants' invention as claimed, and the combination of *Dedrick* and *Newsbytes* fails to disclose or suggest all of Applicant's current claims.

Accordingly, this rejection is moot in light of the current claims. Thus, Applicants request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections.

3. Conclusion

Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (612) 607-7278. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees including fees for any extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Docket 60021-305107).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Glenn Edwards", is written over a horizontal line.

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